

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Of the pending claims, claims 9-17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended to add as step (iii) of the method: “adding a chelating agent into the solution [containing the conjugated polymer material or the precursor thereof and the solvent] such that the residual metal ions in the conjugated polymer material or the precursor thereof are chelated by the chelating agent....” Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in the specification at page 8, lines 16-18. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kathirgamanathan et al. (US 2003/0215669 A1).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons discussed below.

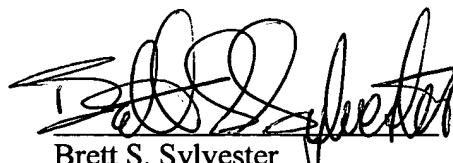
Kathirgamanathan fails to teach or suggest the step of adding a chelating agent to chelate residual metal ions in the conjugated polymer as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 recites forming a solution containing a conjugated polymer material and a solvent, and adding a chelating agent into the solution such that the residual metal ions in the conjugated polymer material or the precursor thereof are chelated by the chelating agent. It is therefore clear that the added chelating agent chelates residual metal ions in the solution. In the invention, metal ions from catalysts and other contamination sources often remain in the conjugated polymer. Thus, a chelating agent is added to chelate the metal ions and thereby decrease the conductivity and mobility thereof, reducing leakage current (see the specification at page 8, lines 12-18 and page 3, lines 11-13).

Kathirgamanathan teaches providing metal-containing chelates (metal complexes) as electroluminescent compounds (see [0021], [0022], and [0028]). Although Kathirgamanathan discloses the conjugated polymer can be mixed with the electroluminescent compounds, i.e., the metal chelates, it fails to disclose that the residual metal ions can be captured by adding a chelating agent to a conjugated polymer solution. In fact, Kathirgamanathan never teaches a chelating agent, although metal chelates are taught.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Kathirgamanathan fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 1. It is therefore Applicant's belief that claim 1 is allowable over the art. Insofar as claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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